

REMARKS

File History

In the Final Office action of 5/18/2006, the following allowances, rejections, objections, requirements and other actions appear to have been made:

- **Claims 2-3, 13-15, 30, 36-37, 39-40** were indicated to contain allowable subject matter but were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim.
- **Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 16, 31-35, 38** were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being fully anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. 5,661,083) or alternatively under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Chen. (*Note: from the reasons given for rejection, it is obvious the Examiner meant claim 4 rather than 3.*)
- **Claims 16-18** were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Chen.
- **Claims 10-12, 27-28** were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Chen in view of Wolf et al. (Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, pages 546-547).
- **Claims 24-26** were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being fully anticipated by Chiu et al. (U.S. 2004/0157444 based on 2/10/2003 filing date).
- **Claims 5-6** were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Chen in view of Tang (US 6,156,485 issued 12/5/2000).

Summary of Current Response

Claims 1-2, 24-26, 36, 39 are canceled.

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 30-33, 35, 37-38, 40 are amended.

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CONCLUSION

Allowable subject matter was indicated to be present in the remaining claims. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Should any other action be contemplated by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that he contact the undersigned at (408) 392-9250 to discuss the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2257 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time and/or fee for additional claims, which may be required.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 17, 2006.

 10-17-06

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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